

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A gypsum board comprising:  
a gypsum core having a main portion and a second portion, the second portion  
being more dense than the main portion;  
a fiber mat comprising a first side and second side opposite the first side, the  
second side is bonded to the second portion of the gypsum core; and  
a coating penetrating the fiber mat from the first side into the fiber mat to a depth  
of about 30 percent to about 50 percent of the thickness of the fiber mat, the coating  
comprises a mineral pigment and an organic binder, wherein the organic binder  
comprises at least about 1 percent and no more than 17 percent by weight and the mineral  
pigment has a particle size such that at least about 95 percent by weight of the mineral  
pigment particles pass through a 100 mesh wire screen, with about 75 percent of the  
particles by number being greater than 5 microns.

44. (Previously Presented) The gypsum board of claim 43, wherein the  
second portion is about 18 to 20% more dense than the first portion.

45. (Previously Presented) The gypsum board of claim 43, wherein the  
mineral pigment has a number average particle size of about 40 microns.

46. (Previously Presented) A gypsum board comprising:  
a gypsum core having a main portion and a second portion, the second portion  
being more dense than the main portion;  
a first fiber mat comprising a first side and second side opposite the first side, the  
second side is bonded to the second portion of the gypsum core;  
a first coating penetrating the first fiber mat from the first side into the fiber mat  
to a depth of about 30 percent to about 50 percent of the thickness of the fiber mat,  
a second fiber mat comprising a first side and second side opposite the first side,  
the second side is bonded to the main portion of the gypsum core;  
a second coating penetrating the second fiber mat from the first side into the fiber  
mat to a depth of about 30 percent to about 50 percent of the thickness of the fiber mat;  
wherein both the first fiber mat and the second fiber mat each comprise glass  
fibers nominally about 10 to 16 microns in diameter and about one-quarter (1/4) to about  
one (1) inch in length, the first fiber mat in the absence of coating has a basis weight of 1  
to 3 pounds per 100 square feet; and

wherein both the first coating and the second coating each comprise a mineral  
pigment and an organic binder, wherein the organic binder comprises at least about 1  
percent and no more than 17 percent by weight and the mineral pigment has a particle  
size such that at least about 95 percent by weight of the mineral pigment particles pass  
through a 100 mesh wire screen, with about 75 percent of the particles by number being  
greater than 5 microns.

47. (Previously Presented) The gypsum board of claim 46, wherein the  
second portion is about 18 to 20% more dense than the first portion.

48. (Previously Presented) The gypsum board of claim 46, wherein the  
mineral pigment has a number average particle size of about 40 microns.

49. (New) A gypsum board comprising:

a gypsum core having a main portion and a second portion, the second portion being more dense than the main portion;

a fiber mat comprising a first side and second side opposite the first side, the second side is bonded to the second portion of the gypsum core; and

a coating penetrating the fiber mat from the first side into the fiber mat to a depth of about 30 percent to about 50 percent of the thickness of the fiber mat, the coating comprises a mineral pigment and an organic binder, wherein the organic binder comprises at least about 1 percent and no more than 17 percent by weight and the mineral pigment has a particle size such that about 75 percent of the particles by number are greater than 5 microns.

50. (New) The gypsum board of claim 49, wherein the mineral pigment has a number average particle size of about 40 microns.